

WELCOME : Master of Ceremonies, The Mayor - Councillor van Dyk,
The Mayoress - Mrs. van Dyk, Mr. Conacher, Members of the School Board and other Dignitaries.

Our School has become an institution to be proud of. In a very short space of time it has become a force to be reckoned with - both in the educational field as well as in the general sporting and cultural field.

A few markers that show the high standard of the School and the calibre of the scholars are - the 100% pass by the matrics - the school's 1st Matric Class - this was no mean feat.

The Schools second in the Wilderness Competition out of approximately 38 Schools speaks for itself - whilst the respect the scholars gained overnight on the sports field makes one wonder what is in store for our competitors - knowing the calibre of our scholars, I am certain they are preparing themselves in such a manner that they will ensure the school retains the respect it has gained in a short space of time. *I have no doubt the parents will respond as well as before. I had the privilege of watching the behaviour of parents from a distance at previous other meetings & they to set a standard second to none.* To all the prize winners - those who achieved prizes this evening and those who were honoured during the course of the year - congratulations - you have set your own goal and target in life - keep it up. This evenings honours is but merely an endorsement that society recognises that you are on your way to achieving what you have made up your mind to do. *You have a virtue a gift - as Plato said - we shall not exchange our virtue for their wealth. For virtue is stable whereas money now one has, now another. You virtue you take no one can take away from you.* This years matrices - indeed a sad moment that we have to part, but there is no doubt that you will be able to look back with satisfaction and contentment. Your school will also acknowledge what your high standard of conduct, presentation, achievements have been. It is certain that you will also spare a thought to remember what your School, Alberton High, has meant to you.

Some of you have commenced your first matric examinations - a procedure adopted to show that you have officially completed your 1st Educational hurdle - matric - I know ^{that} I speak on behalf of all when I ask that the Good Lord give you guidance during your examination and keep you well and healthy.

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After the examinations, you will be either going out to work, study further in your chosen career or serve the army. In short, in the manner in which you have served your School ^{at home} so you will be setting out to serve your country and society. You will be meeting daily challenges - you will be called upon to use that ^{which} you have been taught - not only academically but in the way you have been taught to get on with your fellow being - you will be the leaders of tomorrow or part of the group that will help to determine societies destiny.

There is no doubt that discussions held with your family and friends ^{and even the new} that times are difficult in South Africa and the thought is always ^{asked} expressed "what does the future hold for us?" I ask you not to enter your new era with this negative thought. Be assured that your country, South Africa, is not facing more obstacles than any other country anywhere in the world. Society is in a mess - the World is in a mess - the World is sitting on a volcano and not only South Africa. We must not look at South Africa's problems through the eyes of the outside world. We have to look at any set-backs or difficulties through our own media and solve such difficulties according to our own requirements

in order to suit ourselves and our own way of life. ^{As Plato said: 'We shall purge the source of contention which is our selves. It is futile to rail at circumstances for they are in different. He shall fare well who confronts circumstances as they are.'}
Remember that the grass is always greener on the other side but I have no doubt that we can say that our grass is greener and will always be greener and has been green enough to have kept us well nourished and satisfied in the past and that it will do so in the future. Therefore, remember that when moving out into your career and your new life, do so with a peaceful outlook. South Africa will look after you if you do your share

Time and circumstances will present a lot of challenges - but remember always have faith in our Lord and with your background and upbringing, these challenges and obstacles will easily be overcome.

Our matrices - as I said, your School will remember you - can I ask you to remember your School. It would not be difficult for you to organise an old ^{Albion} boys club and so develop an institution that will not only give you pleasure but that this ~~old boys~~ club will be able to serve your School from time to time in the future

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To our P.T.A. allow me to say "thank you" as a parent for what you have done for our School and children. To the Chairman, Mr. Gill Neervoort, we know it has been a difficult task, but

rest assured, we appreciate every bit that has been achieved - above all, you have managed to get parents involved in the School and this is a very important factor - it is the duty of parents to share their childrens school life - to show an interest and this can be achieved by serving on your P.T.A.

To the Members of the Governing Body, I say a sincere and grateful thank you. We are satisfied that we have done our duty and that we shall continue to serve the School as best as we can. Thank you for the long hours that have been sacrificed in the meetings to arrive at decisions that have, I have no doubt, benefitted the School.

Mr. Conacher, to you and your staff, words cannot be found to express our thanks for what is being done for our children. The task is not easy, but as a parent I say thank you on behalf of all for this fine effort and dedication to duty. I had the privilege of watching from close quarters the fine comradship and spirit that has developed between teacher and scholar - a situation

that has undoubtedly assisted in the firm and solid growth of our School. A situation that I have no doubt will give contentment to all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not want to tire you any more, but I make a final and earnest appeal to you to please join and support the various activities of our School - in so doing, we are serving the welfare of our own children. Do we live for anything else but the wellbeing of our children. By making it a duty to partake in and share our childrens school life, we shall see fruits and results that will, I have no doubt, give us deep satisfaction and contentment.

Thank You.